
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

BERNARD JAMES BELL,

§

Movant,

§

versus

§ CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:20-CV-380

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

§

Respondent.

§

**MEMORANDUM ORDER ADOPTING THE
MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Movant, Bernard James Bell, Jr., a prisoner currently confined at FCI Beaumont Medium, proceeding *pro se*, filed this motion to vacate, set aside, or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The court referred this matter to the Honorable Christine Stetson, United States Magistrate Judge, at Beaumont, Texas, for consideration pursuant to applicable laws and orders of this court. The magistrate judge recommends denying the motion to vacate, set aside, or correct sentence (#17). No objections to the Report and Recommendation have been filed to date.

The court has received and considered the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge filed pursuant to such referral, along with the record, and pleadings. After careful review, the court finds that the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the magistrate judge are correct.

ORDER

Accordingly, the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the magistrate judge are correct and the report of the magistrate judge (#17) is **ADOPTED**. A final judgment will be entered in this case in accordance with the magistrate judge's recommendations.

Furthermore, the court is of the opinion Movant is not entitled to a certificate of appealability. An appeal from a judgment denying post-conviction collateral relief may not proceed unless a judge issues a certificate of appealability. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253. The standard for a certificate of appealability requires the movant to make a substantial showing of the denial of a federal constitutional right. *See Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 483-84 (2000); *Elizalde v. Dretke*, 362 F.3d 323, 328 (5th Cir. 2004). To make a substantial showing, the movant need not establish that he would prevail on the merits. Rather, he must demonstrate that the issues are subject to debate among jurists of reason, that a court could resolve the issues in a different manner, or that the questions presented are worthy of encouragement to proceed further. *See Slack*, 529 U.S. at 483-84. Any doubt regarding whether to grant a certificate of appealability should be resolved in favor of the movant, and the severity of the penalty may be considered in making this determination. *See Miller v. Johnson*, 200 F.3d 274, 280-81 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 531 U.S. 849 (2000).

In this case, Movant has not shown that any of the issues would be subject to debate among jurists of reason. The questions presented are not worthy of encouragement to proceed further. Therefore, Movant has failed to make a sufficient showing to merit the issuance of certificate of appealability. Accordingly, a certificate of appealability will not be issued.

SIGNED at Beaumont, Texas, this 11th day of September, 2023.



MARCIA A. CRONE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE